

Health Impact Project 2012 Call for Proposals “Screening” Web Conference

August 7, 2012

A collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts.



Purpose of the Call: Introduction to HIA Screening

- Brief overview of HIA
- Introduction to the HIA screening step
- Help applicants learn about how to identify appropriate targets for HIA through HIA screening
- Answer applicant questions about screening

www.healthimpactproject.org

Health Impact Assessment

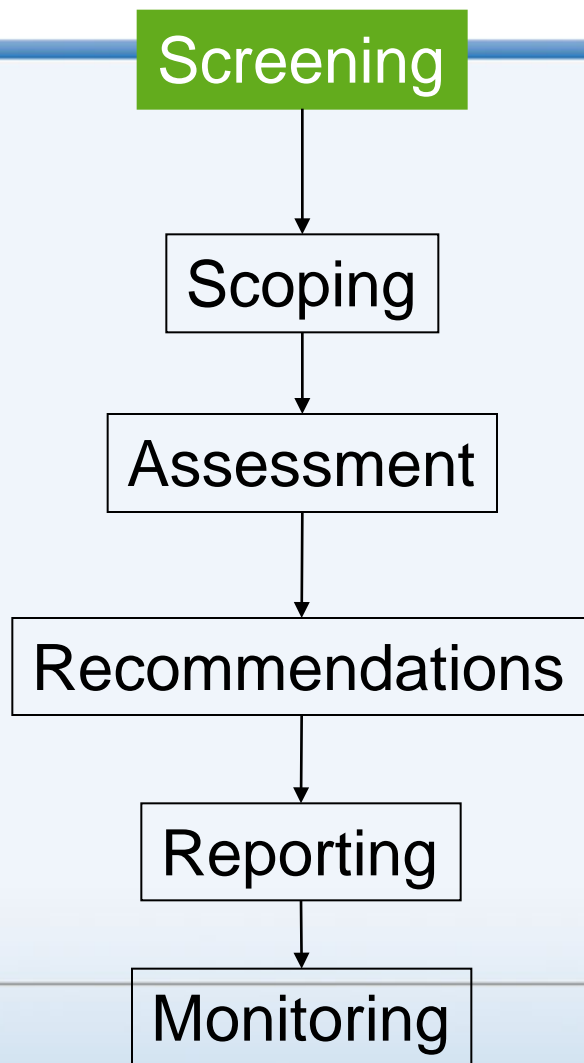
- A framework or process that predicts anticipated health outcomes of a decision/project
- Translates that information into recommendations for well-informed policies
- Informs an active decision-making process
- Helps folks outside the health field understand the direct health impacts of their work
- HIA's purpose is to improve health, track unintended consequences and mitigate risk

What HIA is not . . .

- It's not used to make the case for why a policy, program or project should be proposed.
- It's not an assessment to understand the impacts of a program or policy once it has been implemented.
- It is not intended to simply say “yes” or “no” to a decision.
- It's not a community assessment tool (i.e., MAPP & CHA), but those are used during assessment stage of HIA.

The HIA Process

www.healthimpactproject.org/hia/process



Screening

Objective

To decide whether a HIA is feasible, timely, and would add value to the decision-making process

Essential Tasks

Define the decision and its alternatives

Decide who will be involved

Determine if potential partners are ready to work on a HIA

Evaluate the project based on screening criteria

Make a decision about whether to conduct a HIA

Notify stakeholders of your decision



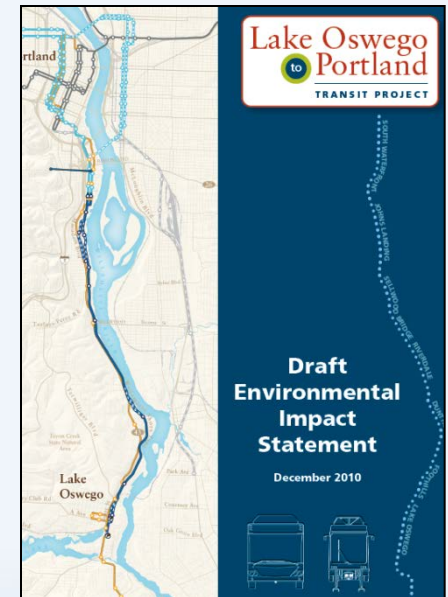
Basic Considerations

1. Is there a **DECISION** regarding a policy, plan, or project, **CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION** whose outcomes are likely to impact health?



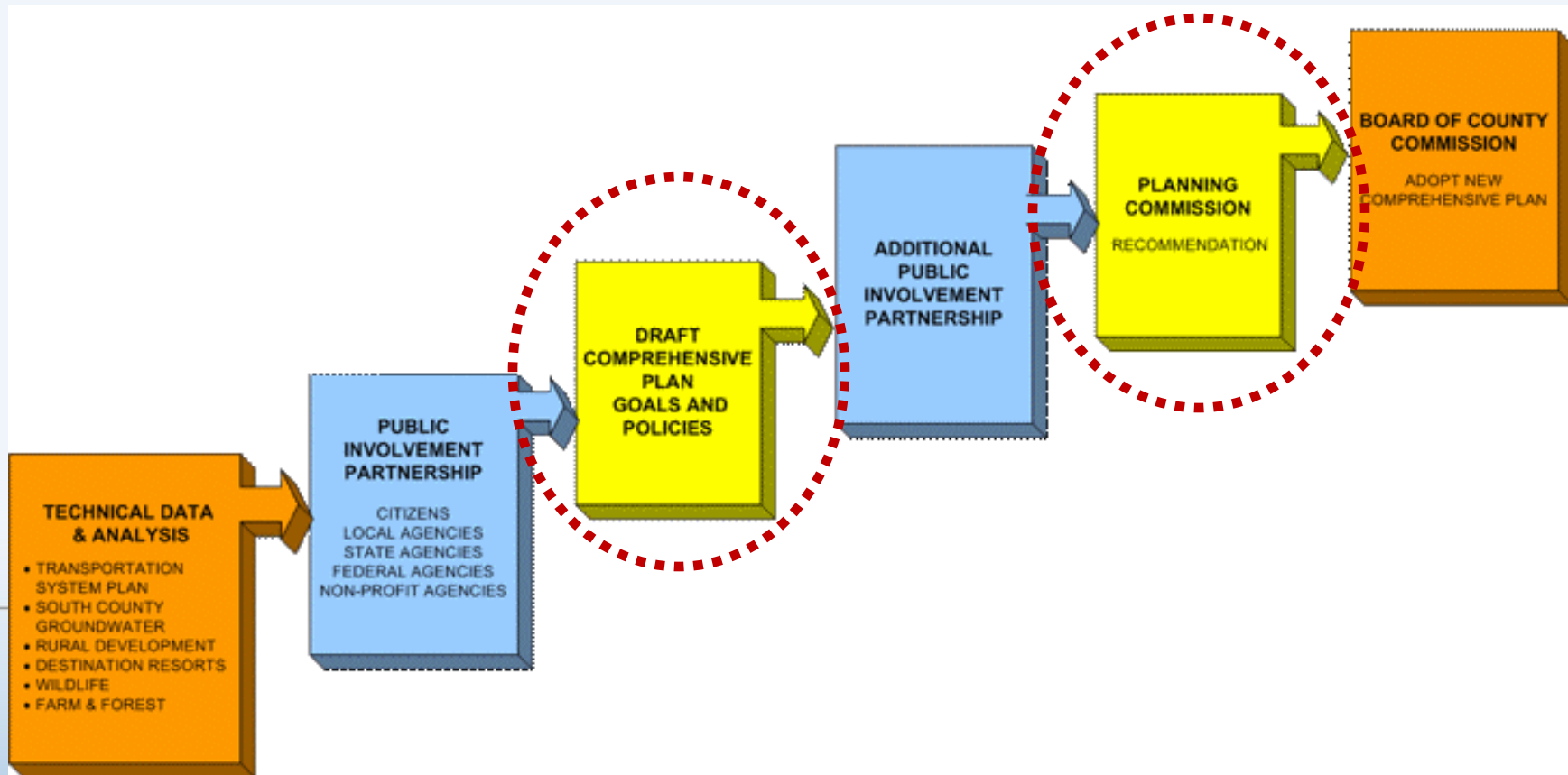
**State of
Oregon
farm-to-
school bill**

**Portland to Lake
Oswego DEIS
Transit Study**



Basic Considerations

2. Does the decision-making **PROCESS** allow for input from an HIA?



Basic Considerations

3. Are health considerations currently **EXPLICITLY** a part of the discussion? Would the HIA bring new information to the decision-making process?

Jack London Gateway



Smoking Ban



Basic Considerations

4. Can the HIA be completed within the **TIMELINE** for the decision, and with the **RESOURCES** available?
- Aligning funds with decision timelines
 - Available staff
 - Available data
 - Need for development of partnerships/stakeholder support

Additional Considerations

1. What is the likelihood that the HIA findings and recommendations will **RECEIVE CONSIDERATION** by decision-makers?

**Power plant
citing with pre-
established
criteria**



Additional Considerations

2. What are the **PRIMARY HEALTH DETERMINANTS** likely to be impacted by the decision?

HIA Screening/Scoping Checklist (UCLA)

HIA Screening Checklist of Health Determinants (UCLA Health Impact Assessment Project, April 2002)	Potentially significant impact					
	Likelihood of impact?			Likely magnitude of impact?		
	(1) no/unlikely	(2) possible	(3) likely	(1) low	(2) medium	(3) high
Biophysical environment						
Housing conditions						
Fire, building safety	1	2	3	1	2	3
Security	1	2	3	1	2	3
Sanitation	1	2	3	1	2	3
Indoor air quality (including radon)	1	2	3	1	2	3
Asbestos	1	2	3	1	2	3
Lead	1	2	3	1	2	3
Crowding	1	2	3	1	2	3
Affordability and access	1	2	3	1	2	3
Working conditions (includes psychosocial factors ¹)						
Structural safety (including fire, earthquake, etc)	1	2	3	1	2	3

www.ph.ucla.edu/hs/health-impact/training/pdfs/UCLA_HIA_checklist.pdf

Additional Considerations

3. Are there other **STAKEHOLDERS** who are willing and able to participate in the HIA?

- City/County Planners
- Community organizations
- Local universities
- Health partners

SE 122nd Avenue Planning Study Health Impact Assessment



Additional Considerations

4. Does this HIA have the potential to **INCREASE PARTNERSHIPS, VISIBILITY, AND SUPPORT** for future HIAs and other Health in All Policies efforts in your region?



Additional Considerations

5. Is there the potential for different sub-groups within the community to be more adversely affected than others?



**MA's State-matched Low
Income Home Energy
Assistance Program**

Portland to Lake Oswego DEIS Transit Study



Example 1:

Does the HIA inform a proposed decision?

Scenario: A school district wants to better understand the health impacts of the *recent re-siting* of its elementary school.



- **Why *not* do an HIA?** This HIA would not inform a *proposed* decision. In this case there is no decision to influence, as the decision to site the school has already been made.

Example 2:

Is health “already at the table?”

Scenario: A hospital is considering a new policy to serve healthier foods.



- **Why *not* do an HIA?** Decision-makers will likely already be considering how these proposals will impact health. Therefore, it is less likely that the HIA will provide new or important information/insight on previously unrecognized health issues.

Example 3:

Will the HIA look at health from a broad perspective?

Scenario: A county health department will use an HIA to assess the impact on obesity rates from a proposed bike lane.



- HIA adds the greatest value when it provides the decision maker with a systematic assessment of the important risks and benefits, rather than focusing on a single issue of concern to the group conducting the HIA.

Example 4: Is the proposed idea a community risk assessment, a needs assessment, evaluation, or baseline health assessment?

Scenario: A local housing agency will evaluate which of its programs have the greatest benefits for health.



➤ HIA is not the same as evaluation.

Example 5:

Is the HIA feasible in terms of timing and resources?

Scenario: A local health advocacy organization wants to conduct an HIA on next month's decision to locate a proposed WalMart distribution center in their county. Over the past two years that this decision has been debated, they have not had any luck getting decision makers to pay attention to concerns about health impacts.

- There may not be enough time to conduct an HIA before the final decision about this proposal will be made. Additionally, decision makers may be less open to considering HIA findings and recommendations so late in the process.

What makes a good topic for an HIA?

There are many possibilities!

- Education
- Transportation planning and projects
- Natural resource extraction and energy production
- Environmental engineering, ecosystem services and water-resources management decisions
- Energy policies
- Climate change
- Food and agriculture
- Housing
- Social, economic and labor
- Incarceration

**These are examples:
the CFP is not
limited to these
topics**

Examples of decisions addressed

What?	Decision maker?	Decision addressed?
Housing inspections	Interagency group	Creation of a streamline for housing inspections
Rail intermodal facility	State Department of Transportation	Preferred site of facility
EPA Superfund site	EPA	Selection of preferred clean-up scenario
Casino development	State legislature	Legislative bill

Health Impact Project: What screening-related topics bear on our decisions?

- We will fund organizations wishing to undertake an HIA. We will not offer general programmatic funding.
- Proposals that address only a single health issue (when there are others that could also be important) will generally not be considered.
- Proposals that focus solely on clinical health care issues will not generally be considered.
- Proposals focused on areas other than urban land use planning will receive preference

Basic Screening Questions Addressed in the Grant Proposal

Health considerations:

- Are there potentially important health effects?
- Is health already a primary focus of the decision?
- Are there community concerns that are health-related?
- Would the decision have an impact on vulnerable communities?

Decision-making context:

- Can you do the HIA within the timeline for the decision?
- Does the legal/regulatory framework for the decision allow a consideration of health? Actions to address health effects?
- Do you think there are solutions to the important health effects?
- Can you convince decision makers to pay attention to the results?

Practical:

- Do you have the time, staffing, resources and expertise needed?

Screening tools: New South Wales Checklist

Appendix 1 continued: Screening Tool for Health Impact Assessment

10. Checklist

ANSWERS FAVOURING DOING A HIA	TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE	ANSWERS FAVOURING NOT DOING A HIA
HEALTH IMPACTS		
Yes / not sure	Does the initiative affect health directly?	No
Yes / not sure	Does the initiative affect health indirectly?	No
Yes / not sure	Are there any potentially serious negative health impacts that you currently know of?	No
Yes / not sure	Is further investigation necessary because more information is required on the potential health impacts?	No
No	Are the potential health impacts well known and is it straightforward to suggest effective ways in which beneficial effects are maximised and harmful effects minimised?	Yes
No	Are the potential health impacts identified judged to be minor?	Yes
COMMUNITY		
Yes / not sure	Is the population affected by the initiative large?	No

Harris, P., Harris-Roxas, B., Harris, E., & Kemp, L. Health Impact Assessment: A Practical Guide, Sydney: Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation (CHETRE). Part of the UNSW Research Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity, UNSW.

Screening tools: Human Impact Partners' Screening worksheet

HIA Screening Worksheet

Screening Questions	Response and Supporting Facts
Project and Timing <i>Has a project, plan or policy been proposed?</i> <i>Is there sufficient time to conduct an analysis before the final decision is made?</i>	
Health Impacts <i>Does the decision have the potential to affect environmental or social determinants that impact health outcomes? If so, which determinants and which health outcomes?</i> <i>Would health inequities be impacted? In what ways?</i>	

Human Impact Partners, available on-line at:

<http://www.humanimpact.org/component/jdownloads/finish/12/27>

Screening tools: Screening Worksheet

HIA Screening Worksheet

Screening determines whether the HIA is likely to provide useful information for decision-makers and improve the health impacts of the outcome. This worksheet contains basic issues that should be considered when screening potential subjects for HIA. Brief answers to these questions will help organizations determine whether to proceed with an HIA on a particular subject, and also help inform the scoping phase of the HIA. This form should take approximately 30-60 minutes to complete.

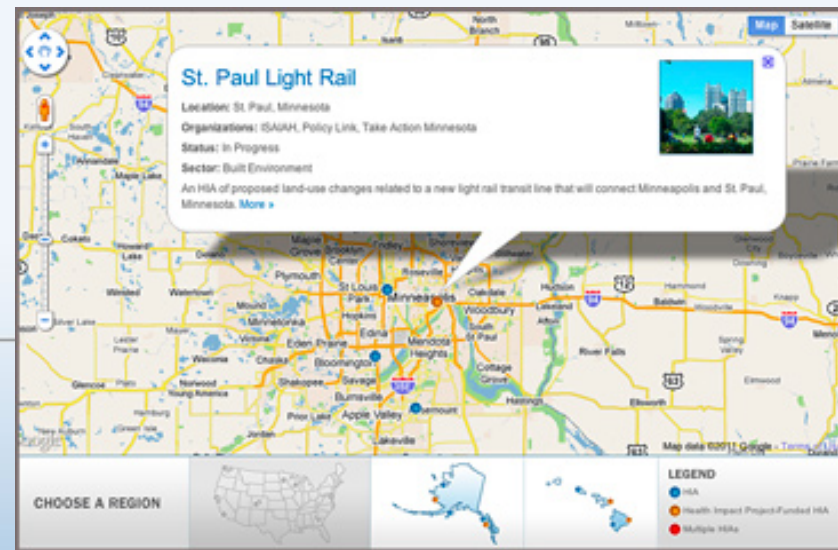
1. What proposed policy, program or project currently under active consideration by a decision-making body--such as a local, state, regional or tribal agency or legislature--will your HIA inform?
2. Describe the decision-making process and timeline. What opportunities exist for including HIA findings and recommendations in this process? Who are the key decision makers?
3. Are health considerations currently part of the discussion? Can the HIA provide new and important information or insight to improve decision making?

Resources

1. Human Impact Partners. 2009. Considerations for the Selection of Appropriate Policies, Plans, or Projects for Analysis using Health Impact Assessment.
www.humanimpact.org/HIA_Screening_WhitePaper.pdf
2. Human Impact Partners. HIA Readiness Questions.
www.humanimpact.org/HIA_ReadinessQuestions_1109.doc
3. Taylor L, Gowman N, Quigley R. Deciding if a Health Impact Assessment Is Required (Screening for HIA). NHS Health Development Agency, 2003.
4. Health Impact Assessment: A Screening Tool for the Greater London Authority.
www.londonhealth.gov.uk
5. Merseyside Guidelines for Health Impact Assessment. www.ihia.org.uk

www.healthimpactproject.org/hia/us

- Review completed and in progress HIAs



Identifying potential projects and partnerships

- Click around on the interactive map to get a sense for the wide range of HIAs that are in-progress or completed
- Attend local or regional conferences
- Have meetings with multi-sectoral partners
 - Sit down with sister agencies and give them an overview of HIA
 - Use that discussion to get them thinking of possible HIAs coming down the pike
- Attend your city council meeting or regional governing body (or at least pay attention to the agenda items that come up for discussion) – you may hear some good ideas

Questions?

Health Impact Project
The Pew Charitable Trusts
901 E Street, NW, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20004

Phone: **202-540-6012**

E-mail: healthimpactproject@pewtrusts.org

